

# CHAPTER 5:

## CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION





## 5.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the public participation opportunities made available through the development of the Ring of Fire Proposed Resource Management Plan (PRMP)/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), the formal consultation with federal agencies and federally recognized tribal governments that has occurred to date, and collaborative efforts conducted with the State of Alaska and the Alaska Resource Advisory Council (RAC). It also lists agencies and organizations that will receive copies of the PRMP/FEIS for review, and lists preparers of the document. There have been, and will continue to be, many ways for the public to participate in the planning process for public lands under the jurisdiction of the Anchorage Field Office (AFO).

An interdisciplinary team of specialists from URS Corporation (third-party contractor), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Anchorage Field Office (AFO), and the BLM Alaska State Office prepared the Ring of Fire PRMP/FEIS. The State of Alaska has also participated in the development of the document. Both the AFO and State office staff have provided technical review and support.

Members of the PRMP/FEIS team have consulted formally or informally with numerous agencies, groups, and individuals during the PRMP/FEIS development process. Consultation, coordination, and public involvement have occurred through scoping meetings; public review of the Draft RMP/EIS; meetings and briefings with federal, State, and Tribal government representatives; and informational meetings with interested individuals and organizations.

### 5.2 Public Participation Opportunities

There are several steps throughout the planning process that provide the public with opportunities to participate. Major public participation opportunities are described below.

#### 5.2.1 Scoping

Scoping was initiated with the publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* (FR) on March 19, 2003. Identification of issues and concerns by agencies and the public was requested during scoping. Prior to the beginning of the scoping process, the BLM identified preliminary management concerns, which were outlined in the first project newsletter. The scoping process further identified management concerns and issues to be addressed through public input. Federal and State agency representatives, tribal representatives, and the general public identified a range of issues and topics to be considered throughout the RMP/EIS process, and specific decisions to be made. These issues were contained in 232 scoping comments received during the scoping process. These comments were evaluated to determine the specific issues or concerns identified by the agencies and the public. The comments were reviewed, organized by issue, and entered into a scoping comments database to facilitate retrieval and tracking through the RMP/EIS process.

All scoping comments and input were collected through the meeting process, as well as via email and United States (U.S.) mail. During the scoping period, representatives of BLM published the first newsletter announcing the beginning of the Ring of Fire RMP/EIS project. A

comment form was included in the newsletter, and electronic copies of both were posted at [www.alaskaringoffire.com](http://www.alaskaringoffire.com). The scoping period ended on July 1, 2003.

Seven public meetings were hosted by BLM between April 28 and May 13, 2003, in Juneau, Skagway, Haines, Palmer, Kenai, Kodiak, and Anchorage. An agency meeting was also held on May 14, 2003 in Anchorage. In addition to the public scoping meetings, and at the request of the Chilkat Indian Village in Klukwan, near Haines, an informal meeting with the Ring of Fire planning team was held on April 30, 2003. Locations of other informal scoping meetings included:

- City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ);
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Juneau;
- City of Skagway;
- National Park Service (NPS), Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park, Skagway;
- Haines Borough;
- Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Planning Department;
- Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (NWR);
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Planning Department;
- Kodiak Island Borough (KIB); and
- Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Planning Department.

## 5.2.2 Alternative Development

An interdisciplinary team process that included URS and BLM staff specialists, and a representative of the State of Alaska, developed the alternatives. These alternatives were designed to provide a reasonable range of choices for addressing the planning issues identified during scoping. Federal and State agency representatives, tribal representatives, and the general public identified a range of issues and topics to be considered in the RMP/EIS, and alternative development took this process into consideration. Each alternative considered in the PRMP/FEIS allows for some level of support of all resources and resource uses present in the Ring of Fire planning area, and are designed to resolve land management issues identified during the early stages of the planning process, and guide future management.

## 5.2.3 Draft RMP/EIS Public Involvement

On September 30, 2005, a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft RMP/EIS was published in the Federal Register (Federal Register 2005), marking the beginning of a 90-day public review period for the document. At the same time, print copies and CDs of the Draft RMP/EIS were made available at public libraries throughout the planning area and by request from the BLM AFO, and at public hearings held within the planning area. Copies of the document were also distributed to other federal and State agencies. Public hearings were held between November 15 and December 15, 2005 in Juneau, Skagway, Haines, Palmer, Kenai, Kodiak, and Anchorage. An agency meeting was also held on December 14, 2005 in Anchorage. Informal meetings were held with:

- CBJ;
- City of Skagway;
- Chilkat Indian Village, Klukwan;
- NPS, Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park, Skagway;
- KPB Planning Department; and
- MSB Planning Department.

The 90-day public review period was originally scheduled to end on December 29, 2005. A comment period extension was requested as a result of a specific mapping error. BLM produced an errata sheet and new maps, and distributed these to the entire project mailing list. The public comment period was extended by 30 days, and officially ended on January 30, 2006. Substantive comments that were received are compiled, with responses, in the Comment Analysis Report (Chapter 6).

## **5.3 Consultation**

### **5.3.1 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation**

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (1973) prior to initiation of any project by BLM that may affect any federally-listed threatened or endangered species or its habitat.

The AFO initiated the Section 7 consultation with USFWS via a letter, which described the proposed project, including a detailed description of the alternatives. During the consultation, a species list was requested by BLM. As part of the PRMP/FEIS, a Biological Assessment is being prepared.

### **5.3.2 National Marine Fisheries Service Consultation**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for the administration of the ESA as it applies to listed cetaceans and pinnipeds in Alaska. These include seven species of endangered whales, the threatened eastern population of Steller sea lions, and the endangered western population of Steller sea lions.

An informal consultation with NMFS was initiated by the AFO via a letter that described the planning project area, the project alternatives, and a requested species list. A written response from NMFS provided a list of the threatened and endangered species found throughout the planning area, and indicated that the endangered and threatened stocks of Steller sea lions and the humpback whale would most likely occur in the waters adjacent to the Ring of Fire planning area (Payne 2003). As part of the PRMP/FEIS, an assessment of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is being prepared.

### **5.3.3 Tribal Consultation**

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (1966), as well as in recognition of the government-to-government relationship between Native villages and corporations and the federal government (Executive Order 13175), letters inviting cooperation were sent to over 150 Native villages and corporations. Only the Chilkat Indian Village in

Klukwan, near Haines, and the Eklutna Native Village, located in Chugiak, north of Anchorage, responded to BLM's invitation.

At their request, an informal meeting was held with the Chilkat Indian Village to discuss issues and concerns for management of BLM lands in the area. BLM met with representatives of the Chilkat Indian Village on two separate occasions during the development of the Draft RMP/EIS. Government-to-government coordination facilitated communication with the villages throughout the planning process and opened the door to increased coordination and consultation after the plan is completed.

## **5.4 Collaborative Efforts**

### **5.4.1 Cooperation with the State of Alaska**

Because of the high percentage of State-selected lands within the Ring of Fire planning area, BLM has involved the State of Alaska from the beginning of this planning process. Early on, a letter was sent inviting the State of Alaska to participate in the RMP/EIS process. A joint BLM-State position was created, with that person acting as liaison between the State of Alaska and BLM during this planning process. This has been effective in facilitating information exchanges and reviews of draft materials by State personnel.

Constant involvement throughout the planning process has taken place with the State of Alaska, and several meetings were held between the State and BLM at varying levels of authority to discuss the development of the Ring of Fire PRMP/FEIS. These meetings were productive in developing an understanding between the State and BLM regarding management of State-selected lands.

## **5.5 Plan Distribution**

Since initial scoping, BLM has maintained a mailing list of individuals, businesses, special interest groups, and federal, State, Tribal, and local government representatives interested in the development of the Ring of Fire RMP/EIS (currently at 459 individuals/groups). All interested parties who requested a copy (hard copy or CD) of the Draft RMP/EIS received a copy of the PRMP/FEIS as well. In addition, notices were mailed to everyone on the RMP/EIS mailing list in June 2006 asking in which format (hard copy or CD) they wished to receive the document for review. Those who responded received the document in the form that they requested. Copies of the Ring of Fire PRMP/FEIS are available for public inspection at the following locations:

- A. Holmes Johnson Memorial Library (Kodiak).
- Alaska Resources Library (Anchorage).
- Alaska State Library (Juneau).
- Anchorage Municipal Library (Z.J. Loussac Library).
- Bartlett School Library (Tyonek).
- BLM AFO.
- BLM Alaska State Office, Public Information Center (formerly the Public Room), Anchorage.
- Chugach National Forest (CNF) Office, Cordova.

- Chugiak-Eagle River Library.
- Department of Interior Natural Resources Library (Washington, DC).
- Egegik Public Library.
- Haines Borough Public Library.
- Homer Public Library.
- Irene Ingle Public Library (Wrangell).
- Kenai Community Library.
- Ketchikan Public Library.
- Kettleson Memorial Library (Sitka).
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough Offices.
- Meshik School Library (Port Heiden).
- Palmer Public Library.
- Seward Community Library.
- Skagway Public Library.
- Talkeetna Public Library.
- Valdez Consortium Library.
- Wasilla Public Library.

Concurrent with the distribution of the PRMP/FEIS, a Notice of Availability was published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in the FR to mark the beginning of the 30-day protest period. BLM also published a Notice of Availability in the FR announcing the availability of the PRMP/FEIS and the start of the protest period.

Hard copies, or CDs when requested, of the Draft and PRMP/FEIS have been distributed to the following organizations, agencies, and individuals who have requested them, or as required by regulation or policy.

#### **Federal Government Agencies**

- Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR
- Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- BLM – Director’s Office
- Bureau of Reclamation – Office of Program and Policy Services
- Katmai National Park & Preserve
- Kodiak NWR
- Minerals Management Service – Environmental Division
- NMFS, Protected Resource Management Division
- NPS – Division of Environmental Quality

- Office of Energy – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Policy and Compliance
- Office of Surface Mining – Planning, Analysis, and Budget
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Department of the Interior – Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
- U.S. Department of the Interior – Office of External Affairs
- U.S. EPA – Alaska State Director
- U.S. EPA – Office of Federal Activities, EIS Filing Section
- U.S. EPA – Region 10
- U.S. FWS – Division of Environmental Quality
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) – Environmental Affairs Program
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service – CNF
- USDA Forest Service – Ecosystem Management Coordination
- USDA Forest Service – Tongass National Forest

#### **State Government Agencies and Organizations**

- Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR)
- Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer
- Honorable Frank Murkowski, Governor of Alaska
- University of Alaska, Anchorage – Land Management

#### **Local Governments and Committees**

- City of Delta Junction
- City of Kodiak
- City of Skagway
- KPB
- Kodiak Island Borough
- Lake and Peninsula Borough (LPB)
- MSB

#### **Tribal Governments and Committees**

- Afognak Native Corporation
- Calista Corporation
- Chignik Lagoon Native Corporation
- Chignik Lagoon Village Council
- Cook Inlet Region, Inc.



- Egegik Village
- Native Village of Pauloff Harbor
- Native Village of Port Lyons
- Ninilchik Native Association
- Sealaska Corporation
- Tyonek Native Corporation
- Unga Corporation

### **Congressionals**

- U.S. Representative Don Young
- U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski
- U.S. Senator Ted Stevens

### **State Legislators**

- Rep. Tom Anderson
- Rep. Ethan Berkowitz
- Sen. Con Bunde
- Rep. Mike Chenault
- Rep. Sharon Cissna
- Sen. John Cowdery
- Rep. Harry Crawford
- Rep. Eric Croft
- Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom
- Sen. Bettye Davis
- Sen. Fred Dyson
- Rep. Jim Elkins
- Sen. Johnny Ellis
- Sen. Kim Elton
- Sen. Hollis French
- Rep. Les Gara
- Rep. Berta Gardner
- Rep. Carl Gatto
- Sen. Lyda Green
- Rep. Max Gruenberg
- Sen. Gretchen Guess
- Rep. Mike Hawker

- Sen. Lyman Hoffman
- Sen. Charlie Huggins
- Rep. Beth Kerttula
- Rep. Vic Kohring
- Sen. Al Kookesh
- Rep. Pete Kott
- Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux
- Rep. Bob Lynn
- Rep. Lesil McGuire
- Rep. Kevin Meyer
- Rep. Carl Moses
- Rep. Mark Neuman
- Rep. Kurt Olson
- Rep. Norman Rokeberg
- Rep. Ralph Samuels
- Rep. Paul Seaton
- Sen. Bert Stedman
- Sen. Ben Stevens
- Sen. Gary Stevens
- Rep. Bill Stoltze
- Rep. William Thomas, Jr.
- Sen. Thomas Wagoner
- Rep. Bruce Weyhrauch
- Rep. Peggy Wilson

#### **Non-Governmental Organization and Businesses**

- Alaska Boating Association
- Alaska Coalition
- Alaska Welcomes You
- Anchorage Audubon Society
- Arctic Bicycle Club
- Chugach Alaska Corporation
- Lynn Canal Conservation Association
- Sheinberg & Associates
- The Wilderness Society
- Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.

## 5.6 Interdisciplinary Team

The PRMP/FEIS was prepared by an interdisciplinary team of specialists, as listed in Table 5.6-1 and included expertise from across the state.

**Table 5.6-1. List of Preparers**

Name	Responsibility	Education	Years of Experience
<b>URS Corporation</b>			
Jon Isaacs	Project Manager, Lands and Realty	B.A. Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara	31 years
Amy Lewis	Deputy Project Manager, Recreation, Visual, Off-Highway Vehicles	M.S. Environmental Science, Alaska Pacific University	10 years
Luke Boggess	GIS	A.A. General Studies, Certified GIS Specialist	7 years
Angela Brennan	Water Resources	M.S. Environmental Science, Western Washington University	7 years
Karen Brown	Floodplains, Farmlands	B.S. Environmental Science, University of South Florida, Tampa	7 years
Kim Busse	Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat	B.S. Biology, Loyola Marymount University	7 years
Kelly Clark	Lands and Realty, Forestry, Grazing, Hazardous Materials, Renewable Energy	B.S. Environmental Science, Colorado College	3 years
Nancy Darigo	Physiography, Geology, Leasables, Locatables, and Salables	M.S. Geology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles	22 years
James Dietzmann	Soils	B.S. Watershed Science, Colorado State University, Fort Collins	14 years
David Erikson	Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species	M.S. Biology, University of Nevada, Reno	21 years
Jim Glaspell	Wildlife, Water Resources, Floodplains	M.S. Wildlife Management, Penn State University	24 years
Michelle Harper	Paleontology	B.S. Natural Science, University of Alaska Anchorage	8 years
Eric Klein	Air Resources, Climate, Soils, GIS	M.S. Environmental Science, Alaska Pacific University	4 years
Richard Kleinleder	Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species	M.S. Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks	21 years
Joan Kluwe	Socioeconomics, Recreation, Wild and Scenic Rivers	Ph.D. Natural Resources, University of Idaho	15 years
Colleen Lavery	Lands and Realty, Special Management Areas	B.S. Forestry and Natural Resources Management	4 years
Kristin Marsh	Vegetation, Wetlands-Riparian, Invasive Plants	B.A. Environmental Science, Alaska Pacific University	5 years
Jill Missal	Wildland Fire and Fuels	M.S. Emergency Management, Oklahoma State University	1 year
Anne Southam	Water Resources	M.S. Environmental Science, University of North Texas, Denton	6 years
<b>Stephen R. Braund and Associates</b>			
Stephen Braund	Subsistence, Cultural Resources	M.A. Anthropology, Subsistence, and Cultural Resources	31 years
Elizabeth Grover	Subsistence, Cultural Resources	M.A. Anthropology, Subsistence, and Cultural Resources	11 years
Erik Hilsinger	Subsistence, Cultural Resources	M.A. Anthropology, Subsistence, and Cultural Resources	16 years
Iris Prophet	GIS	B.S. expected 2005	3 years

**Table 5.6-1 (continued). List of Preparers**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Years of Experience</b>
<b>Bureau of Land Management Anchorage Field Office</b>			
Robert Lloyd	Project Manager	B.A. English Literature, Alaska Methodist University	28 years
Gary Reimer	Field Office Manager	B.A. Political Science, California State – Los Angeles	32 years
Doug Ballou	VRM	B.A. Geography, University of New Mexico	26 years
Larry Beck	Hazardous Materials	B.B.Ad. Gonzaga University, Certified Hazardous Materials Manager, IHMM	15 years
Michael Bennett	Realty Group Manager, Acting	B.S. Natural Resource Management	27 years
Charles Denton	Air, Water, Soil, Wetlands	M.S. Hydrology, University of Nevada	9 years
Jeff Denton	Subsistence, Wildlife, T&E Species	M.S. Wildlife Biology/Management, University of Montana	36 years
Ralph Falsetto	GIS	B.A. Geology, Western State College	9 years
Rodney Huffman	Lands and Realty	B.A. History, Humboldt State University	11 years
David Kelley	Locatable Minerals, Vegetation		
Jeff Kowalczyk	OHV, VRM, WSR, Recreation	B.S. Natural Resource Management, California Polytechnical University	15 years
Mary Lynch	Fire and Fuels, AFS	B.A. Psychology, State University of New York	27 years
Teresa McPherson	Public Affairs	Journalism and Public Communications, University of Alaska, Anchorage	18 years
Paxton McClurg	GIS		
Carl Persson	Locatable and Salable Minerals		
Donna Redding	Cultural and Paleontological Resources	Ph.D. Anthropology, UCLA	33 years
Jake Schlapfer	OHV, VRM, WSR, Recreation	M.S. Multi-resource Management, Northern Arizona University	17 years
Mike Scott	Fisheries	M.S. Fisheries Management, Tennessee Tech	31 years
Bruce Seppi	Wildlife, T&E Species	M.S. Wildlife Management	16 years
Brian Sterbenz	Fire and Fuels	B.S. Forest Management, Iowa State University	18 years
Mike Zaidlicz	Resources Group Manager	B.S. Forestry, University of Montana	31 years
<b>Bureau of Land Management Alaska State Office</b>			
Taylor Brelsford	ANILCA Section 810 Analysis	M.A. Anthropology, McGill University	25 years
Robert Brumbaugh	Fluid and Solid Leasable Minerals	B.A. Earth Science, University of Alaska, Fairbanks	10 years
Bill Diel	Fluid and Solid Leasable Minerals	B.S. Geology, Arizona State University	24 years
Jim Ducker	NEPA Specialist	Ph.D. History, University of Illinois	18 years
Mark Meyer	Locatable and Salable Minerals	B.S. Geology, University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh	28 years

**Table 5.6-2. List of Reviewers**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
<b>Bureau of Land Management Alaska State Office</b>	
Andi Bauer	Writer/Editor
Harrison Griffin	Physical Scientist
Bruce Hollen	Special Status Species Biologist
Mike Kasterin	Regional Economist
Robert King	Archaeologist
Lee Koss	Hydrologist
Susan Lavin	Realty Specialist
Bill Overbaugh	Outdoor Recreation Planner
John Payne	Wildlife Biologist
Larry Standley	Hydrologist
Dennis Tol	Fisheries Biologist
Curtis Wilson	Supervisory Land Use Planner
<b>Alaska Department of Natural Resources Representative</b>	
Carol Fries	Natural Resources Manager

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